



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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C 462
25 Aug 94

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1500.51A

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE BATTLE SKILLS TRAINING (MBST) PROGRAM

Ref: (a) MCO 1510.89
(b) MCO 1510.90

1. Purpose. To provide information, policy, intent, and execution instructions for the MBST Program.
2. Cancellation. MCO 1500.51.
3. Summary of Revision. Specific changes were made to this Order pertaining to Phase IV, Sustainment Training (ST).
4. Background
 - a. The expeditionary nature of missions assigned to the U.S. Marine Corps requires all Marines to possess basic combat skills, commensurate with their grade, regardless of military occupational specialty (MOS) or unit assignment. Marines are provided training in the required combat skills through the MBST Program. MBST focuses on firing of individual and crew served weapons, basic knowledge of field skills, participation in battle drills, and combat-oriented physical conditioning.
 - b. MBST integrates individual and collective combat skills with specific unit mission requirements. It is a comprehensive training process dedicated to the development and sustainment of combat skills. The MBST program, properly implemented, will enhance readiness and provide the basic combat skills necessary to support the Rear Area Security (RAS) mission within a Marine Air-Ground Task Force.
 - c. There are four phases of MBST:
 - (1) Basic Warrior Training (BWT) is the first phase of the MBST program and is conducted at the Marine Corps Recruit Depots (MCRD). While recruit training provides the traditional transformation of civilians into Marines, BWT focuses on individual combat tasks and combat marksmanship with individual weapons.
 - (2) Marine Combat Training (MCT) for non-infantry designated male Marines is conducted at the Schools of Infantry (SOI). MCT is an aggressive training package that reinforces and

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builds on BWT. MCT focuses on squad level offensive/defensive combat skills and the employment of crew served weapons. Infantry designated male Marines do not attend MCT and report directly to the Infantry Training Battalion (ITB) for MOS training. All tasks trained during MCT are covered in the infantry MOS courses at ITB. Women Marines receive MCT in conjunction with BWT at MCRD, Parris Island. Reference (a) provides the entry level tasks trained during BWT and MCT.

(3) Marine Leader Training (MLT) is the third phase of the MBST program and is incorporated into the enlisted Professional Military Education (PME) programs. The focus of MLT is to provide NCO's and SNCO's with the requisite training and education to enable them to lead Marines in RAS operations. Additionally, MLT provides enlisted leaders the knowledge necessary to conduct training in basic combat skills. Reference (b) provides the leader tasks trained during MLT.

(4) ST is the fourth phase of the MBST program and is the incorporation of time and resources into a unit's training program in order to sustain those skills learned in the first three phases of the MBST program (BWT, MCT, and MLT).

5. Policy

a. Every Marine regardless of MOS will be taught those fundamental combat skills needed to survive and fight on today's battlefield. The references contain the tasks and standards required of Marines (private - gunnery sergeant). Sustainment of these skills is the responsibility of commanders at all levels.

b. Combat skills proficiency is an integral part of every Marine's performance of duty. Commanders will consider a Marine's combat skills proficiency when assigning proficiency marks and writing fitness reports.

c. BWT will be conducted at the MCRD's.

d. MCT will be conducted at the SOI's for all non-infantry designated male Marines. Women Marines will receive MCT in conjunction with BWT at the MCRD, Parris Island.

e. MLT will be incorporated into the enlisted PME school programs. Sergeant's Schools and SNCO Academies will conduct MLT.

f. BWT, MCT, and MLT will be conducted in accordance with a program of instruction approved by the CG MCCDC.

6. MBST Sustainment Training

a. ST is the continuous reinforcement of basic military tasks throughout a unit's training program and is comprised of both General Military Subjects (GMS) training and Battle Skills Training (BST). MBST Handbooks have been developed by the Marine Corps

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Institute (MCI) and are based on the references. These books are to be utilized as job aids to assist in the preparation for and conduct of ST. MBST Handbook 1 contains GMS tasks (private - gunnery sergeant). MBST Handbook 2 contains combat oriented tasks (private - lance corporal). MBST Handbook 3 contains combat oriented tasks (corporal - sergeant). MBST Handbook 4 contains combat oriented tasks (staff sergeant - gunnery sergeant). All Marines (private - gunnery sergeant) except, students in formal schools, will be trained/tested in the GMS annually. All units, FMF and supporting, except those type units listed in paragraph 6k of this Order, will conduct BST training annually.

b. Commanders will train/test their Marines in GMS tasks annually. The MCI has developed a test booklet to support the GMS tasks contained in the references and MBST Handbook 1. Commanders will utilize this test booklet as a basis for the GMS test. The test may be administered in a written or oral/practical format. A minimum score of 80% is required to pass the GMS test. Marines who fail the test will be provided remedial instruction in those areas found deficient and retested.

c. GMS test scores will not be reported through Manpower Management System (MMS) and will not be used in the computation of composite scores for promotion to the ranks of corporal and sergeant. However, they will be considered when assigning proficiency marks for corporals and below and in fitness reports for sergeants and above. The weight of the GMS test may not be more than .1 (1/10 of one point). The .1 will be added to a Marine's overall proficiency mark if the Marine passes the GMS test on the first attempt (80% or better). Section C comments regarding performance on the GMS test for sergeants and above are appropriate.

d. Units will conduct BST continuously and in conjunction with scheduled training. Commanders will determine training requirements based on an analysis of the unit's mission (Mission Essential Task List), MOS structure, combat skills proficiency and Table of Equipment (T/E). Commanders will train their Marines in those tasks which they deem most important to their unit's combat security mission. In the case of non-FMF units, with no combat mission, commanders will consider generic RAS tasks that all Marines may be required to execute in the FMF.

e. Practical application is the preferred method of conducting BST. The MBST User's Guide (MBST Handbook 5) offers commanders possible methodologies for accomplishing BST. BST should focus on demonstrating performance to standard. Tasks that cannot be reasonably demonstrated or evaluated due to non-availability of equipment, ranges/training areas, or ammunition may be degraded at the commander's discretion, (i.e., Task PVT X.11.5, reference (a) - Engage targets with the M203 grenade launcher: If no range/ammunition is available, Marines can demonstrate, with weapon in hand, how they would engage a target). Tasks requiring weapons/equipment not on a unit's T/E need not be trained.

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f. Commanders will ensure that Marines (private - gunnery sergeant) are trained annually in a net minimum of 50% of the combat oriented Individual Training Standards (ITS) appropriate to their grade. These ITS's are listed in duty areas 11 - 22 of the references. The 50% will be calculated after those tasks requiring weapons/equipment not contained in a unit's T/E have been subtracted.

g. Commanders at all levels must allocate sufficient resources to accomplish BST annually. Resources immediately available to the commander are: ammunition allocated in the current MCO P8011.4, equipment listed in the unit's T/E, and those training resources available at local bases and stations.

h. Selected Marine Corps Reserve units will conduct BST. I&I staff personnel are responsible for the same requirements as the supported unit.

i. BST, similar to GMS testing, will not be reported through MMS or computed as part of the composite score for promotion to the ranks of corporal and sergeant. Proficiency in BST will be considered in the assignment of proficiency marks for corporals and below and in fitness reports of sergeants and above. Factors to be considered in the evaluation of BST are effort, motivation, and accomplishment of required tasks in relation to other Marines in the unit. The weight of BST may not be greater than .1 (1/10 of one point). For example, a commander determines that a Marine's proficiency mark for a particular period, considering actual MOS (job) performance only, to be 4.3. If that same Marine excelled in BST; an additional .1 would be added to the Marine's proficiency mark for a mark of 4.4. An additional .1 would be added if this same Marine also excelled in GMS test for a final proficiency mark of 4.5. Commanders will similarly deduct points for Marines who perform poorly in either the GMS test or BST. Section C comments regarding BST performance, on fitness reports, for sergeants and above are appropriate. Additionally, block 13g, Tactical Handling of Troops, may be marked for Marines who have filled leadership positions in the conduct of BST. When block 13g is marked, as a result of BST performance, appropriate section C comments are required.

j. The Inspector General, Marine Corps (IGMC) will evaluate major subordinate command compliance with the intent of this Order and conduct inspections of procedures in separate units.

k. The following type units are not required to conduct BST:

(1) Formal Schools (students) - Formal schools are not required to conduct annual GMS testing/BST for students.

(2) Formal school (staffs) - in locations where access to weapons, equipment, and suitable training areas is limited. Drill instructors filling authorized 8511 billets, BWT instructors at the MCRD's and instructors at the SOI's are exempt from the annual BST requirements.

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(3) Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Ships Detachments, Flag Allowance personnel, personnel assigned to Joint staffs and Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

(4) Marine Detachments - in locations where access to weapons, equipment, and suitable training facilities is limited.

1. Commanding generals have the authority to temporarily waive BST based on subordinate unit missions and resources. For separate organizations (units without a commanding general in their chain of command), waivers will be requested from the CG MCCDC (C 462).

7. Action

a. IGMC. Inspect and evaluate major subordinate commands/independent units and activities (as listed in MCO 5040.6) for compliance with the intent of this Order.

b. CG MCCDC

(1) Ensure that the MBST handbooks are published in sufficient quantity to provide appropriate level books for every Marine.

(2) Review the MBST handbooks and GMS test every three years and update as required.

(3) Review the programs of instruction for BWT, MCT, and MLT every three years and update as required.

c. Commanding Generals. Ensure a command policy is carried out in accordance with this Order.

d. Commanders

(1) Plan, conduct, and evaluate MBST in accordance with the policy contained in this Order.

(2) Request waivers, in accordance with paragraph 61 of this Order, when mission and resources prevent compliance.

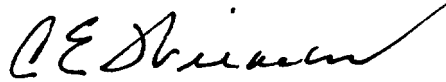
(3) Consider battle skills proficiency and GMS test scores when assigning proficiency marks to corporals and below and when writing fitness reports for sergeants and above.

(4) Ensure proficiency is maintained in individual combat skills in accordance with the tasks and standards listed in the references.

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8. Reserve Applicability. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.



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By direction

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